

its julie esty

On Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 10:23 AM <[elzbththrn@aol.com](mailto:elzbththrn@aol.com)> wrote:

How did it go? We're all a little closer ----- either with shots or having appointments. I'm praying Megan can get something soon. Maybe we can start to get out of this. Karl gets a shot next week. Angie and Kathy follow -- me and Les are at the end of February. Maybe we can make it out. What did your brother do?

A dear friend from the old neighborhood -- THE PATCH ---- has a question. Rick is a good guy ----- not a scumbag. He lives in NYC now and has a question ----- can you answer this for him? If you would rather speak to him --- or rather him contact you directly ----- I can tell him to do that.

**Hi Julie,**

**I understand that Dr. Powell is pretty much an authority on the Delaware & Hudson Railway and its presence in Carbondale. I have a question that he might be able to answer.**

**I'm working on an article about the New York, Ontario & Western Railway, which was a late entry into the anthracite competition. O&W entered the competition in 1890 with construction of its Scranton Division from Cadosia, NY down through Carbondale to Scranton.**

**When O&W entered Carbondale, they had to build their tracks on a trestle above and across the city. The story goes that because Delaware & Hudson (D&H) was a major player in Carbondale (in terms of employment), D&H had a lot of influence on the city fathers and thus O&W wasn't allowed to build at ground level. It was apparently a way for D&H to more or less stifle the competition.**

**I asked people at the Ontario & Western Railway Historical Society in Middletown, NY about this. They are experts on O&W, but don't have an answer to whether or not that's true.**

**When you speak with Dr. Powell next, can you please ask him if he knows anything about whether or not the reason O&W had to build above and across Carbondale rather than on ground level is because D&H had influence with the city fathers and got them to deny O&W the right to build at ground level?**

**It's a question that many have wondered about over the years.**

**Thanks!**

**Rick**



**S. Robert Powell** <srp18407@gmail.com>

1:52  
PM

to Julie Esty

Vaccination: shot # 1 done; return for second dose on February 18. Easy drive down to Pittston; found the place with no trouble; in and out in about a half hour. To celebrate, I stopped at P&R on the way home. Got at least \$100 worth of groceries for less than \$50. Not sure yet what my brother's plans are: I gave him the phone number last night, but I left this morning sorta early (didn't want to be late at Geisinger) and didn't see him this morning before I left home.

SRP

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Rick: The story you've heard is the same story that I've heard, from many different sources, over the years. Yes, Carbondale was a D&H town, but the D&H, as a company, could not have told the O&W that they could not come into Carbondale "at grade". That would have to be a decision made by the City fathers. And so the D&H probably "recommended" to the Carbondale City fathers that the O&W not be granted the necessary permits to enter the city at grade. And the City fathers then probably told the O&W that they could pass over Carbondale on bridges and trestles but could not enter the city at grade. None of this "behind the scenes" wheeling and dealing, of course, was put in writing.

The D&H was not trying to control the labor market in Carbondale. There was never a shortage of people looking for jobs. The D&H was interested in controlling the market for anthracite coal to the best of its ability and the last thing they wanted to see would be another railroad producing or marketing coal in Carbondale.

Scranton, similarly, was "controlled" by the DL&W, and they gave it their best to keep all other railroads out. For many years, D&H passenger service from Carbondale to "Scranton" ended at Providence, where D&H passengers going into downtown Scranton had to transfer to horse-drawn omnibuses or, in later years, to street cars. Over the years the D&H and the CNJ and the Erie eventually managed to get rail lines into the City of Scranton. SRP

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**elzbththrn@aol.com**

2:07  
PM

to Robert

SO GLAD!!!!!! Hope we're all somewhat shot up before the end of March. Hoping for Jersey to get with it and roll out so Megan is okay. I've been so worried about here but try not to think about it or let on.

Have you noticed the photo of you and Senator Bernie Sanders in the cemetery? BERNIE ROCKS!!!!!!!!!!!!!! He, his gloves and inaugural attire have taken the internet by storm! He's a good guy.

Will send your message on to Rick. Thank you.